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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for closing a suction muffler of a hermetic compressor, said suction muffler comprising:

a hollow base (10); a cover (20) to be coupled to the hollow base (10), said parts defined by the hollow base (10) and the cover (20) including mutually ~~eatable~~ seatable peripheral flanges (11,21); and a retaining means affixing the hollow base (10) to the cover (20) in the joining region where said peripheral flanges are mutually seated, characterized in that said peripheral flanges (11,21) are shaped to define, jointly, an internal channel (30) extended along at least part of the circumferential extension of said peripheral flanges (11,21) and which is opened to the opposite external faces of the latter by means of throughbores (13,23) axially aligned to each other in pairs, each pair of throughbores (13,23) maintaining a circumferential distance in relation to an adjacent pair of throughbores (13,23), the throughbores (13,23) of each pair and the internal channel (30) being filled with a gasket (40) of injected material, which projects outwardly from the throughbores (13,23) so as to define an axial lock portion (41) to be seated on each of the adjacent opposite external faces of said peripheral flanges (11,21).

2. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the internal channel (30) is continuous along the circumferential extension of the peripheral flanges (11,21).

3. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each axial lock portion (41) is defined by a projection of the gasket (40) seated on the external face of the adjacent peripheral flange (11,21) between two adjacent throughbores (13,23) of two consecutive pairs of throughbores (13,23).

4. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each axial lock portion (41) is in the form of a widened head seated on the external face of the adjacent peripheral flange (11,21).

5. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material of the injected gasket is plastic.

6. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow base (10) and the cover (20) define, in the mutual seating condition of their peripheral flanges (11,21), a labyrinth portion, for sealing the interior of the suction muffler and comprising at least one groove (14,24) provided in one of said parts defined by the hollow base (10) and the cover (20) and in which is fitted, by interference, a respective rib (15,25) provided in the other part.

7. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each peripheral flange (11,21) defines at least one of the parts defined by the groove (14,24) and the rib (15,25).